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Letter dated 17 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 August 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 20 July 2000 (A/54/944-S/2000/711) and 1 August 2000 (A/54/955-S/2000/763) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding, inter alia, "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar unfounded allegations were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently, in my letter dated 28 July 2000 (A/54/951-S/2000/755). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As reiterated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false assumption that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration, which purports to be the legitimate "government of Cyprus", extends over the whole island. This well-known position denies the existence of two politically equal peoples, namely the Turkish Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot people, and their respective states, thus making it difficult to reach a comprehensive, realistic and viable settlement in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot administration, supported by Greece, is continuing with its military build-up in South Cyprus, which heightens the crisis of confidence between the two peoples and further impedes the current efforts towards reconciliation in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Fileleftheros* reported on 3 August 2000 that Mr. Sokrates Hasikos, the Greek Cypriot Defense Minister, stated that the Greek Cypriot administration would continue to acquire new weapons, irrespective of whether or not talks for a resolution of the Cyprus issue were taking place, and that the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot military manoeuvres code-named Nikiforos would take place as planned. Mr. Yiannakis Cassoulides, the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, also stated that efforts to bolster the military capabilities of the Greek Cypriot National Guard would continue and that "the Greek Cypriot administration would not accept any advice from foreigners as to how the Nikiforos military manoeuvres or the military parade on 1 October 2000 should be held." (*Fileleftheros*, 9 August 2000)

Mr. Hasikos was further quoted by *Fileleftheros* of 7 August 2000 as having stated that the Russian TOR-M1 missile systems, already deployed in South Cyprus, would be operational within a few months and that the military preparations being carried out in the context of the joint military doctrine with Greece would be evident at the military parade on 1 October 2000, as well as during the joint military manoeuvres. It was also reported that the second stage of the construction work at the Paphos military air base, which involves the building of auxiliary facilities, has already begun.

In view of the above, it is my duty to reiterate, once again, that the hostile military preparations, as well as the misinformation campaign conducted by the Greek Cypriot administration against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, constitute a major obstacle to achieving reconciliation on the island. It is my Government's expectation that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its policy of escalation and concentrate its efforts on preparing the necessary ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement between the two parties.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus